

CLAIMS

1. An image transmission system for a mobile robot, comprising:
a camera for capturing an image as an image signal;
5 human detecting means for detecting a human from the captured image;
a power drive unit for moving the robot toward the detected human;
face identifying means for identifying a position of a face of the detected
human;
face image cut out means for cutting out a face image from the captured image
10 of the detected human; and
image transmitting means for transmitting the cut out face image to an external
terminal.
2. An image transmission system according to claim 1, further comprising means
15 for monitoring state variables including a current position of the robot; the image
transmitting means transmitting the monitored state variables in addition to the cut out
face image.
3. An image transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the robot is
20 adapted to direct the camera toward the position of the face of the detected human.
4. An image transmission system according to claim 1, further comprising means
for measuring a distance to each of a plurality of humans, the human detecting means
being provided with means for detecting a human closest to the robot.

5. An image transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the mobile robot is adapted to move toward the detected human according to a distance to the detected human.
- 5 6. An image transmission system according to claim 1, further comprising a face database that stores images of a plurality of faces and face identifying means for comparing the cut out face image with the faces stored in the face database to identify the cut out face image.
- 10 7. An image transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the face identifying means comprises means for detecting an outline of the detected human, and identifying a face as an area defined under an upper part of the outline of the detected human.
- 15 8. An image transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the human detecting means is adapted to detect a human as a moving object that changes in position from one frame of the image to another.